



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**American Eagle Day**

**WHEREAS**, the bald eagle was designated as the United States of America's National Emblem on June 20, 1782 by our country's founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the bald eagle is unique to North America and represents such American values and attributes as freedom, courage, strength, spirit, justice, quality and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, the bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many branches of the U.S. Government, including the Presidency, Congress, Defense Department, Treasury Department, Justice Department, State Department, Department of Commerce and U.S. Postal Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the bald eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles, art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, culture and heritage of Americans from all walks of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the bald eagle was federally classified as an "endangered species" in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and was upgraded to a less imperiled "threatened" status under that Act in 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delisted the bald eagle from Endangered Species Act protection in 2007, but will continue to be protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and

**WHEREAS**, the recovery of the bald eagle population was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2012 American Eagle Day in Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this day.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State